

NEWS

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING
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SUBJECT: Pittsburgh Public Schools Join EPA's ENERGY STAR Program

RELEASE: Immediately

Pittsburgh, PA, August 13, 2004. . . . At the legislative meeting on May 26, 2004, the Pittsburgh Board of Education approved the ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement between the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR program.

ENERGY STAR is a government/industry partnership that offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions, helping them save money and develop energy-saving habits that protect the environment. Through the partnership, the district plans to track and maintain energy performance data and develop and implement a plan to reduce energy intensity across facilities and operations.

Beginning this school year, Pittsburgh Schools will be evaluated to determine which buildings currently qualify to earn the ENERGY STAR label for superior energy performance. Buildings earn the ENERGY STAR by achieving a rating of 75 or better on EPA's 100-point energy performance rating system, which draws from a national building energy survey. West Liberty Elementary, South Brook Middle, Carrick High School, and the new Homewood Elementary School will be among the first facilities rated.

The potential exists for the Pittsburgh Public Schools to save in excess of one million dollars in energy costs, following the example of school districts in Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and San Diego. At the present time, the Pittsburgh district has investments in guaranteed energy savings contracts through qualified zone academy bonds. Over the last three years, \$12 million has been spent to retrofit lighting and implement digital controls (and other Energy Conservation Measures with a payback period of 10 years or less).

In addition to the recent partnership established with the ENERGY STAR program, the SECTEM (Student/Employee/ Community Teamed for Energy Management) energy program has been operating in the Pittsburgh Public Schools since 1991. SECTEM is committed to encouraging students, parents, and employees to practice the same energy-saving habits at school as they do at home. Individual schools committed to energy-saving efforts are provided with grants to aid in the development of site-based energy programs. Each year, monetary awards are presented to all schools participating in the SECTEM program for their energy conservation efforts.

(more)

The Pittsburgh Public School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title II of ADA, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. It is the policy of the Pittsburgh School District to make all programs, services, activities and facilities available and to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities.

For information regarding accommodations, civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Ms. Lee Mecard, Human Resources Specialist, Office of Employee Relations, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3516; Phone: (412) 622-3691 (Voice/TTY/TDD); Fax (412) 622-7968.

ENERGY STAR

Page Two

"Energy management is important because it teaches our students the value of efficiency," said John W. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools. "With ENERGY STAR as our partner, we can develop a more focused goal for energy conservation."

When fossil fuels like coal, oil or natural gas are burned to generate electricity, emissions such as carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide are released into the environment. These emissions contribute to smog and acid rain. Energy-efficient technologies reduce the amount of energy needed to power a building, resulting in cleaner air.

"By partnering with EPA, school districts, like the Pittsburgh Public Schools, are realizing that they can reduce energy costs while protecting the environment," said EPA Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh. "The EPA is pleased to recognize the Pittsburgh Public Schools for their commitment to environmental leadership through superior energy performance."

ENERGY STAR works with more than 7,000 public and private sector organizations to improve the quality of our environment through superior energy efficiency. Last year alone, Americans with the help of ENERGY STAR saved enough energy to power 20 million homes, prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 18 million cars while saving \$9 billion on their energy bills.

EPA offers ENERGY STAR to businesses, governments, school districts and other organizations as a straightforward way to adopt superior energy management and realize the cost savings and environmental benefits that can result. EPA promotes a strategy for superior energy management that starts with top leadership, engages the appropriate employees throughout the organization, uses standardized measurement tools, and helps an organization prioritize to get the most from its energy efficiency investments.

For more information on ENERGY STAR and how to prevent pollution through energy efficiency, visit EPA's website at www.energystar.gov. Or call Region III's ENERGY STAR Program Manager, Mindee Osno, at 215-814-2074.

For more information about the Pittsburgh Public Schools' participation in ENERGY STAR, contact Jay Boyd, plant operations, 412-488-5120, or Christopher Berdnik, Finance, 412-622-3844.

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